



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

Mailed: FEB 11, 2005

dss  
Paper Number \_\_\_\_\_

In re application of  
David G. Midkiff et al.  
Serial No. 09/944,435  
Filed: August 31, 2001  
For: RIGIDIFIED NONWOVEN AND METHOD  
OF PRODUCING SAME

DECISION ON  
PETITION

This is a response to the PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.181 TO WITHDRAW HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT filed May 28, 2004. The petition requests that the abandonment, as set forth in the Notice of Abandonment of April 23, 2004 for failure to timely file a proper reply to the Office letter of July 25, 2003, be withdrawn since the applicants did timely file a response thereto on August 25, 2003 by facsimile transmission to the USPTO. (A copy of the papers filed August 25, 2003 and a copy of the Facsimile Transmission Report indicating receipt of the facsimile transmission at the USPTO is attached to the instant petition.)

**DECISION**

The instant request has been accepted as a petition to withdraw the holding of abandonment under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.181 (no fee) - no abandonment-in-fact. A review of the evidence presented reveals that applicant's response was properly filed on August 25, 2003 by facsimile transmission as evidenced by the properly completed Certification of Facsimile Transmission attached to applicant's response and by the copy of the Facsimile Transmission report provided with the instant petition which indicates the successful transmission, to a USPTO facsimile telephone number (703-305-7718), of 3 pages. Therefore, the application was never in-fact abandoned and any holding of abandonment for failure to timely file a proper response to the Office letter mailed on July 25, 2003 is hereby vacated, and the application is returned to pending status.

The application shall be forwarded to the examiner for processing and consideration of the papers originally filed August 25, 2003 by facsimile transmission and a copy of which is provided as an attachment to the instant petition.

The Petition is **GRANTED**.

Jacqueline Stone, Director  
Technology Center 1700  
Chemical and Materials Engineering

Robert A. Ambrose  
KIMBERLY-CLARKE WORLDWIDE INC.  
401 NORTH LAKE STREET  
NEENAH, WI 54956